

with a force, say experts, greater than that of a high explosive.

It is feared that if the walls collapse they will go crashing down through the flimsy floor of Broadway and into the subway.

The billion or more dollars' worth of securities in the Mercantile Vaults are believed to be perfectly safe. These vaults are in the basement. They are modern, and fireproof. It is not believed the fire can reach them.

But even if the wrecking companies now at work could get to the doors of these vaults, they could not be opened. Permitting a rush of oxygen laden air into the vaults would cause spontaneous combustion, and the destruction of everything within vaults.

The vaults of the Equitable Life are on the first floor. They contain securities worth \$400,000,000, four million being in actual money. These values, say the firemen, are doomed.

Momentarily the firemen are expecting these vaults to go crashing through the first floor and into the basement. And if they should do this, it is almost certain they will burst open, and their contents be burned.

All night long, under dozens of search lights, firemen dug on the main stairway of the building on the second floor for the body of Battalion Chief Walsh.

They took their lives in their hands, and they did not succeed. Over 200,000 tons of ice and debris covered Walsh's body yesterday, and shortly before 10

o'clock today, several floors collapsed, and buried the body of the man who gave his life to save those working under him, deeper still.

President William Giblin, who was saved from death by almost superhuman work on the part of the department yesterday, is better today. Physicians at the Hudson Hospital yesterday, declared him to be dying, but there is hope that he will recover.

The securities in the building are listed as follows:

Gould estate—\$100,000,000.

Equitable Trust Company—\$50,000,000.

Harriman estate—\$125,000,000.

Thomas Fortune Ryan—\$100,000,000.

August Belmont—\$150,000,000.

Kuhn, Loeb & Co.—\$100,000,000.

Kountze Bros., bankers—\$15,000,000,000.

Mercantile Trust Co.—\$70,000,000.

Wm. A. Read & Co., bankers—\$100,000,000.

Mrs. Russell Sage—\$50,000,000.

Southern Pacific securities—Value unknown.

Of course, the vast portion of this great fortune is in registered securities, which are replacable. But the Equitable Life had \$4,000,000 in cash in its vaults, the Mercantile Trust Co., \$6,000,000, the Benmont, Read and Kountze banks also having millions in actual money in their vaults.